

Transition Plan: Boys Scouts of America to Royal Rangers

Prepared by the National Royal Rangers Ministries, May 2013

Royal Rangers is the largest Christian boys program of its kind. We offer Christlike character formation and servant leadership development in a fun, interactive, and highly relational environment. Our mission is to evangelize the world, equip the next generation of Christlike men, and empower lifelong servant leaders.

Over the years the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and Royal Rangers have shared a mutual respect for each other's program. From time to time, people relocate and attempt to find a suitable replacement. In order to facilitate the transition of young men and leaders currently in the BSA to Royal Rangers, the following plan has been developed:

YOUTH MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Royal Rangers is a church-based program, comprised of four groups—Ranger Kids (K-2), Discovery Rangers (3rd-5th), Adventure Rangers (6th-8th), and Expedition Rangers (9th-12th). Participation is open to boys who meet the basic membership requirements:

- Be in K-12th grade in school but no more than 18 years of age.
- Attend at least three regular Royal Rangers meetings.
- Read and review *with a legal guardian* the booklet *Preventing Child & Substance Abuse* (available on the national ministry web site at <http://royalrangers.com/programs/policies>).
- Recite from memory the Royal Rangers pledge, code, motto, Golden Rule, and the meaning of the points of the emblem. (Ranger Kids are exempt from this requirement.)
- Complete your outpost's membership requirements, if any.

LEADERSHIP & PARENTAL PARTICIPATION

Royal Rangers leaders are approved and appointed at the discretion of the local church leadership. However, Royal Rangers has established recommended standards for use when selecting leaders:

- Complete the leadership screening and approval process required by your church.
- Be at least 18 years of age for Assistant Group Leaders or 21 years of age for Group Leaders or Outpost Coordinators.
- Meet the "Qualifications for Royal Rangers Leaders" (available on the national ministry web site at <http://royalrangers.com/programs/policies>).
- Due to the program priority of mobilizing and resourcing godly male role models to mentor boys, men serve as the primary mentors in the ministry. However, women are encouraged to serve as Ranger Kids leaders, in outpost committee positions, and in key administrative capacities, and/or in organizational leadership positions. (The policy of "Women in Royal Rangers" is available on the national ministry web site at <http://royalrangers.com/programs/policies>.)

Scoutmasters joining Royal Rangers will find the Royal Rangers training process to be very helpful. While the two programs share similarities, it has been determined that the best way for a new Ranger leader to understand the ministry is to complete the Outpost Leader Advancement Levels regardless of previous experience. (Follow this link to learn more about Royal Rangers adult training: <http://royalrangers.com/training/adult>.)

SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

Royal Rangers is a church-based program. All Royal Rangers programs must, therefore, operate as a ministry of their church under the direction of their church leadership. The General Council of the Assemblies of God-affiliated churches and those affiliated with the Pentecostal Charismatic Churches of North America (PCCNA) are approved to charter a Royal Rangers program. All other churches must complete an approval process before chartering privileges will be granted; contact the national ministry office if you are an independent, non-AG, or non-PCCNA affiliated church interesting in starting Royal Rangers. (Chartering information is available on the national ministry web site at <http://royalrangers.com/programs/chartering>.)

BSA troops, packs, or crews may transition in entirety from BSA membership to Royal Rangers provided all membership requirements are met for each individual and the group affiliates with a church as stated above.

UNIFORMS

The BSA and the Royal Rangers uniform are unique and represent our respective organizations. Neither leaders nor boys should wear BSA uniforms in Royal Rangers or attach BSA patches to the Royal Rangers uniforms, vests, or hats.

ADVANCEMENT SYSTEM

Advancement work completed in Boy Scouts may be applied toward advancement in Royal Rangers in the manner described below:

Boy Scouts

Royal Rangers is a merit-based program: advancement steps are completed by earning *skill* merits (some are required, but most are elective); *Bible* merits in Adventure Rangers or Spirit *Challenges* in Expedition Rangers; and *leadership* merits. To help Boy Scouts transition into Royal Rangers, credit for each Scout merit earned will be credited toward advancement in Royal Rangers as *elective silver skill merits*. This will also be true when a young man has earned a Boy Scout merit Royal Rangers does not offer. Boy Scout merits can be applied toward advancement in Adventure Rangers (6th-8th) or Expedition Rangers (9th-12th) at the time he transitions into Royal Rangers.

Example: Joey is a 15-year-old sophomore in high school who has earned six Boy Scout merits. He will enter Royal Rangers as an Expedition Ranger and receive credit for all six merits he has earned in Boy Scouts. To continue his advancement in Royal Rangers, he will earn *required* skill merits, remaining *elective* skill merits, Spirit Challenges (Bible studies), and leadership merits.

Please note that because Royal Rangers is providing credit for merits it does not offer and because often merits that bear the same name have different requirements, a merit-badge-for-merit-badge equivalency is not being reached. Thus, credit in Royal Rangers is being offered at the time of transition toward advancement steps to assist the Scout, but no specific merit badge recognition within Royal Rangers will be awarded even when merit badges bear the same name and have similar requirements. This will keep the transition simple and prevent “double dipping” (when a young man is given credit twice for advancement work he has done only once).

Example: One of Joey’s Boy Scout merits was Citizenship in the World. Royal Rangers does not offer this merit. So while credit toward advancement is being offered, no merit badge

will be given since that merit does not exist in Royal Rangers. But Joey also earned the Scouts Cycling merit. Royal Rangers has a Cycling merit with similar requirements, but to avoid “double dipping,” Joey will not be awarded the Royal Rangers Cycling merit badge. If he wants to earn it, he can complete the Royal Rangers Cycling merit requirements and count it toward advancement.

This transition plan gives Boy Scouts a significant head start on their advancement within Royal Rangers by honoring and recognizing their previous efforts in Boy Scouts.

Cub Scouts & Webelos

Webelos (4th-5th grade boys) may receive credit for each of their activity badges as *elective blue skill merits* counting them toward advancement requirements in Discovery Rangers (grades 3rd-5th). By earning Bible merits, leadership merits, required skill merits, and any remaining elective skill merits, the young man can continue his advancement journey within Royal Rangers. No equivalency exists for Cub Scouts or Tiger Cubs.

Venture Scouts, Varsity Scouts, & Sea Scouts

Due to significant differences between the Venture Scout Silver Award, the Sea Scout Quartermaster Award, and the Royal Rangers E3 Award, no equivalency can be established. However, Venture Scouts pursuing the BSA Ranger Award may receive *one elective silver merit* credit for advancement in Expedition Rangers for each of the eight core requirements completed and each elective completed.

Since Varsity Scouts use the same advancement system as Boy Scouts, the transition plan described above for Boy Scouts also applies to Varsity Scouts.

Note: Although Venture Scouts is a co-ed program for both guys and girls ages 14-20, only boys in grades 9th-12th qualify for membership in Expedition Rangers. Individuals 18 years of age or older can be considered for adult leadership positions in Royal Rangers if they meet the requirements described in the Leadership & Parental Participation section (above).

POLICY ON “TIME OF TRANSITION” AND “DUPLICATE REQUIREMENTS”

When a Scout transitions, equivalency will be established *only* at the time he joins Royal Rangers and not later, or concurrently. This will allow the Scout to join Royal Rangers, engage the new advancement system and program, and enjoy the journey without being distracted by continuing to look for points of equivalency. It should also be noted, when young men discover requirements in Royal Rangers similar to previously completed requirements in any BSA group, they will be asked to demonstrate their knowledge by repeating duplicate requirements.